

# **Woonsocket Water Treatment Plant Project Advisory Committee**

**February 9, 2011**

**7PM**

**Woonsocket City Hall**

**Committee members present: Chairman James Cournoyer, Vice-Chairman City Councilman Daniel Gendren, City Councilman Christopher Beauchamp, Alan Rivers, Paul Levreault, Matthew Tessitore, Owen Bebeau, Secretary.**

**Guests: Mayor Leo Fontaine; Sheila McGauvran, Public Works Director; Carol Lariviere, Water Superintendent**

**The committee asked various questions to Superintendent Lariviere. The following topics were discussed:**

- DEM consent order**
- Explanation of processing water (including backwash, filtering, suspended solids)**
- DEM and EPA history of permitting (including testing for aluminum, lead, copper, PH levels)**
- The WTP can now handle the PH issue**
- The DEM consent states that there be no discharge by March 2013**
- Unable to pump discharge discharge to waste water treatment plant**

**and there is no room to place holding tank on the current site for the discharge**

- The staffing needs are not known at present should a pipeline to Pawtucket be built**
- Discussed the blending of Woonsocket and Pawtucket water supplies**
- Superintendent Lariviere explained that the water coming from Pawtucket to Woonsocket would have to be treated along the way due to the fact that the existing treatment would deteriorate as the water traveled through the approximate 10 miles of pipeline as it made its way to Woonsocket**
- Superintendent Lariviere does not recommend abandoning source of water by not building new plant**
- The RIWRB wants a new plant, not just a pipeline**
- The current staffing levels were discussed**
- A Cumberland interconnect was explained. A pump station in Cumberland is in the plans allowing water to be pumped from Woonsocket to Cumberland**
- Water sales to various communities was discussed**
- Operations of a new water plant in North Smithfield**
- Manville Road piping issues to be addressed**
- There is no possible catastrophic failure foreseen at the current water treatment plant**
- Superintendent Lariviere stated ideally she would like to see the North Smithfield site developed for a new w.t.p.**
- PW Director McGauvran has no opinion at this point in time**

- **Construction timing was discussed. It would be shorter time to pipe to Pawtucket than to build new plant.**
- **There was discussion around potential fines that could be levied by DEM in the event that the City misses the March 2013 deadline as outlined in the Consent Agreement. The specific language in the Consent Agreement, paragraph 7, states the following “In the event that the Respondent fails to comply with the schedules in paragraph 10 and 11 of this Agreement it shall pay the stipulated penalty of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) a day for each and every day it remains in violation of this schedule. The payment of the stipulated penalty in accordance with this paragraph shall not preclude DEM from seeking any other appropriate remedy.” There was discussion as to whether “other appropriate remedy” would include additional fines.**
- **DEM fines can exceed \$1000 per day according to consent order**
- **A tour of the current plant is to be planned**

**The next meeting will be scheduled with the Rhode Island Water Resources Board**

**Future meeting guests were discussed:**

**Jim Marvel**

**Pawtucket Water Board member**

**CDM to return**

**Minutes to be reviewed after emailed and returned for**

**additions/deletions/changes.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Owen Bebeau**

**Secretary**